

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01  
SS-15 /073 W

-----120438Z 011412 /73

R 111704Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8651

USERDA HQ WASHDC

USERDA GERMANTOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IAEA VIENNA 1136

EO 11652: NA

TAGS:IAEA, PARM, TECH

SUBJECT: IAEA REQUEST FOR US TAKEOVER OF SAL RADIOACTIVE WASTES

USERDA WASHDC PASS SIEVERING/AIA

PASS IO/SCT; OES; NRC; ACDA

REF: 76 IAEA VIENNA 6074

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED FROM IAEA, IN FORM OF LETTER FROM  
DIRECTOR GENERAL EKLUND TO AMBASSADOR STONE, A REQUEST FOR USG

TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTANCE BY A US LABORATORY OR OTHER  
FACILITY OF ALL PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED WASTES FROM THE  
AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS ANALYTICAL LABORATORY (SAL) AT  
SEIBERSDORF, AUSTRIA. FYI: THE SECRETARIAT HAD ONCE  
BEFORE SUGGESTED US TAKEOVER OF SAL WASTE (SEE REFTTEL),  
BUT THE PROBLEM IS NOW APPARENTLY MORE ACUTE. ACCORDINGLY,  
THE CURRENT FORMAL REQUEST FOR SAL WASTE TAKEOVER IS BEING  
MADE NOT ONLY OF USG, BUT ALSO OF GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT  
BRITAIN, FRG, FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

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2. TEXT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL'S LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE AS YOU KNOW, OUR SAFEGUARDS ANALYTICAL LABORATORY  
AT SEIBERSDORF SHOULD SOON BEGIN TO HANDLE SAMPLES  
COLLECTED BY IAEA INSPECTORS. EVENTUALLY THIS WILL BE  
DONE IN COOPERATION WITH A NETWORK OF OTHER ANALYTICAL

LABORATORIES IN MEMBER STATES.

QUOTE WE HAVE RUN INTO CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES  
IN DEALING WITH THE WASTE FROM THE LABORATORY WHICH WILL  
CONTAIN GRAM QUANTITIES OF PLUTONIUM. YOU WILL SEE FROM  
THE ATTACHED NOTE THAT THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM  
PLUTONIUM CONTENT OF ALL SAMPLES COMING TO SAL IN 1978  
WOULD BE 400 GRAMS; THE ACTUAL AMOUNT IS LIKELY TO BE  
MUCH LESS. THE MAXIMUM WOULD NOT GREATLY EXCEED 400  
GRAMS AS FAR AS WE CAN FORESEE INTO THE 1980'S.

QUOTE AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE SAL LABORATORY IS PART OF A  
MORE GENERAL-PURPOSE IAEA LABORATORY WHICH IN TURN IS  
LOCATED IN THE AUSTRIAN REACTOR CENTRE. THE AUSTRIAN  
AUTHORITIES HAVE TOLD US THAT WHILE THEY CAN HANDLE THE  
WASTE CLASSIFIED AS CLASS 4 IN THE ATTACHED NOTE, THEY  
HAVE NO FACILITIES FOR DEALING WITH THE FIRST THREE  
CLASSES AND THEY HAVE ASKED US TO CONTACT OTHER  
GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE DISPOSAL OF THESE THREE  
CLASSES. WE ARE, THEREFORE, CONTACTING A FEW  
LABORATORIES AND GOVERNMENTS WHICH WE BELIEVE MAY BE ABLE  
TO ASSIST.

QUOTE MY PURPOSE IN WRITING TO YOU IS TO FIND OUT  
WHETHER A LABORATORY OR OTHER FACILITY IN THE UNITED  
STATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT FROM THE IAEA SAL  
LABORATORY ALL WASTE IN THE FIRST THREE CLASSES FOR  
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A GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME, E.G. A TEN-YEAR CONTRACT, AND  
IF SO, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS.

QUOTE I SHOULD NOTE THAT WE ARE ADDRESSING SOLELY THE  
QUESTION OF PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED WASTES, WHICH MAY  
CONTAIN SOME URANIUM. APART FROM THAT, SOME PLUTONIUM-  
FREE URANIUM-CONTAINING WASTE WILL ALSO BE  
GENERATED BY SAL WHICH COULD BE TAKEN OVER BY AUSTRIAN  
AUTHORITIES FOR ULTIMATE DISPOSAL. SHOULD THERE BE AN  
INTEREST ON THE PART OF A NUCLEAR FACILITY IN THE  
UNITED STATES TO ACCEPT THIS TYPE OF WASTE AS WELL,  
HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS  
POSSIBILITY AS WELL. END QUOTE.

ATTACHMENT TO DG'S LETTER IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE SAL PLUTONIUM SCRAP AND WASTE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE MAXIMUM PLUTONIUM CONTENT

OF ALL SAFEGUARDED SAMPLES TO BE ANALYZED IN THE AGENCY'S  
SAFEGUARDS ANALYTICAL LABORATORY (SAL) IN CALENDAR YEAR  
1978 IN (SIC) 400 GRAMS. THIS AMOUNT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN  
FOUR CLASSES: CLASS ESTIMATED GRAMS PU

1	CA 80
2	CA 240
3	CA 60
4	CA 20

QUOTE OUR MEANING OF THE CLASSIFICATIONS IS AS FOLLOWS/

CLASS 1- UNUSED PORTIONS OF SAMPLES IN AN AS-RECEIVED  
FORM. THIS MATERIAL HAS MANY USES, IS  
EASILY RE-USEABLE AND IS EASILY RE-CYCLED.

CLASS 2- DISSOLVED CLASS 1 MATERIAL. READILY AVAILABLE  
FOR RE-CYCLING.

CLASS 3- CLASS 2 MATERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN DILUTED BY  
CHEMICALS WHICH ARE ADDED TO FACILITATE THE  
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CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. THIS MATERIAL WOULD REQUIRE  
EXTENSIVE CHEMICAL TREATMENT BEFORE IT CAN BE  
RE-CYCLED.

CLASS 4- DILUTE SOLUTIONS CONTAINING SMALL AMOUNTS OF  
PLUTONIUM FROM RINSING OF EQUIPMENT; VARIOUS  
OTHER SOLID HETEROGENOUS MATERIALS REMOVED  
FROM GLOVE BOXES AND THE VENTILATED SYSTEM.

END QUOTE.

3. SECRETARIAT'S RENEWED INTEREST IN SAL WASTE  
DISPOSAL DERIVES FROM ANTICIPATED GOA LIMITS ON THE  
AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL ALLOWED AT SAL. THE  
AGENCY HAS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA FOR A  
CLASS A OPERATING LICENSE FOR SAL (WITHOUT WHICH THE  
LABORATORY IS NOT PERMITTED TO POSSESS PLUTONIUM) WHICH,  
WHEN GRANTED, IS EXPECTED TO LIMIT THE QUANTITY OF  
SPECIAL FISSIONABLE MATERIAL IN THE LABORATORY'S  
POSSESSION AT ANY ONE TIME TO SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF GRAMS.  
SECRETARIAT IS EAGER TO OBTAIN THE LICENSE IN ORDER TO  
BE ABLE TO ANALYZE PLUTONIUM SAMPLES AND BELIEVES THAT  
ISUANCE OF THE LICENSE WOULD BE FACILITATED IF THE  
AGENCY COULD DEMONSTRATE THAT IT HAD MADE SATISFACTORY  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSING OF ITS RADIOACTIVE WASTE,  
PREFERABLY OUTSIDE OF AUSTRIA.

4. MISION COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL ON HOW US ACCEPTANCE  
OF SAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION  
OF PROBLEMS OF SAMPLES FROM UNIFIED INVENTORIES FROM NPT  
STATES. STONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RADIOACTIVE WASTES DISPOSAL, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 IAEA VIENNA 6074  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3345335  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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NRC; ACDA  
**TAGS:** PARM, TECH, IAEA  
**To:** STATE ERDA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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